

2. *The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said device is a stent.*
3. *The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said device is a balloon.*
4. *The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said layer is made from a polymeric material selected from a group of polyolefins, polyurethanes, cellulotics, polyesters, polyamides, poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), poly(hydroxy amide ethers), polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate copolymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), liquid crystal polymers, poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrenes, polycarbonates, poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), epoxies composed of bisphenol A based diepoxides with amine cure, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), poly(amino ethers), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, and mixture thereof.*
5. *The sheath of Claim 4, wherein said polyolefins are selected from a group of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.*
6. *The sheath of Claim 4, wherein said polyurethane has a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.*
7. *The sheath of Claim 4, wherein said polyurethane has a non-polar soft segment, said non-polar soft segment is selected from the group of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and mixtures thereof.*
8. (Amended) *The sheath of Claim 4, wherein said cellulotics are selected from the group of cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8,*

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ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

9. *The sheath of Claim 4, wherein said polyesters are selected from a group of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.*

10. *The sheath of Claim 4, wherein said polyamides are selected from a group of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.*

11. (Amended) The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said layer is made from a polymeric material and fillers added to said polymeric material.

12. *The sheath of Claim 1, wherein the layer is made from glass.*

13. *The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said layer is made from a metallic material.*

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14. (Amended) The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said layer comprises a therapeutic substance contacting surface having a metallic substance disposed on said therapeutic substance contacting surface.

15. (Amended) The sheath of Claim 1, wherein said layer comprises a therapeutic substance contacting surface, said therapeutic substance contacting surface having a coating of a main group element oxide formed thereon, said main group element oxide coating is selected from a group of silicon oxide and metal oxide.

Please add the following new claims:

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-- 48. A sheath for packaging a medicated stent during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow, tubular body in which the medicated stent can be inserted during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath being made from a material or an inner surface of the sheath being covered

with a material which has an oxygen transmission rate of not more than about 200 cc/100 in², for 1 mil per 24 hours at 73° F, 75% relative humidity, and 1 atmosphere.

49. A sheath for packaging a medicated stent during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow, tubular body in which the medicated stent can be inserted during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath being made from a material or an inner surface of the sheath being covered with a material which has a water vapor transmission rate of not more than 20 gm/100 in², for 1 mil per 24 hours at 100° F, 90% relative humidity, and 1 atmosphere.

50. A sheath for packaging a stent, the stent having a coating containing a medication, the sheath comprising a hollow tubular body in which the stent can be removably inserted, wherein the body is made from a material or is lined with a material that prevents the medication from significantly diffusing out from the coating of the stent.

51. A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, said implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, said sheath being made from a material that prevents said therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into said sheath.

52. The sheath of Claim 51, wherein said device is a stent.

53. The sheath of Claim 51, wherein said device is a balloon.

54. The sheath of Claim 51, wherein said material is selected from a group of polyolefins, polyurethanes, cellulose, polyesters, polyamides, poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), poly(hydroxyamide ethers), polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate copolymer, poly(methyl methacrylate),

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liquid crystal polymers, poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrenes, polycarbonates, poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), epoxies composed of bisphenol A based diepoxides with amine cure, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), poly(amino ethers), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, and mixture thereof.

55. The sheath of Claim 54, wherein said polyolefins are selected from a group of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.

56. The sheath of Claim 54, wherein said polyurethane has a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.

57. The sheath of Claim 54, wherein said polyurethane has a non-polar soft segment, said non-polar soft segment is selected from the group of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and mixtures thereof.

58. The sheath of Claim 54, wherein said cellulose is selected from the group of cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

59. The sheath of Claim 54, wherein said polyesters are selected from a group of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.

60. The sheath of Claim 54, wherein said polyamides are selected from a group of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.